

STATEMENT & MEMORIAL
OF THE
RETREAT FOR THE INSANE.
May Session, 1845.

To the Committee on that part of the Governor's Message which relates to the Insane Poor.

The following statement and request are respectfully presented by the undersigned Committee.

The Retreat for the Insane is merely a charitable Institution. Neither its President, nor Directors, nor members of the corporation ever have received or can receive, any profits, or pecuniary advantage. All their services, in those offices and characters, are entirely gratuitous.

The propriety and duty of making public provision for the insane poor is now generally acknowledged. Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Ohio and many other States, have expended and are expending hundreds of thousands of dollars of public money, in establishing, enlarging and maintaining Retreats for their insane poor. If Connecticut, as a State, has done less than some others, it is because individual efforts were called forth early and successfully.

The Connecticut Retreat for the Insane was established more than twenty years ago. The State then contributed five thousand dollars, and private individuals eighteen thousand dollars. Some years



afterwards, a lottery was granted. Additions were made to the buildings, at a further expense of about ten thousand dollars. Other improvements have been added from time to time.

In 1842, this State made its first appropriation from the public Treasury, for the support of the Insane poor, and by a vote which is believed to have been unanimous, in both houses of the General Assembly. Patients soon came, who were in part supported by the State. The numbers increased, until the buildings were becoming insufficient for those seeking admission. Thereupon, viz: in 1843, the General Assembly, "In order," (as expressed in their vote) "to encourage said Retreat to erect such buildings. Resolved, that the Governor, as commissioner, should be authorized to advance to said Retreat, the appropriation of two thousand dollars a year," (made at their preceeding session,) "for the term of five years," which advance was and is to be repaid, by support of Insane persons, placed in the Retreat under authority of the State. Nearly eight thousand dollars were thus advanced, part of which has been repaid, and the residue is in course of being repaid, at the rate of two thousand dollars a year.

With this encouragement by the Legislature, the Directors proceeded and have built two new wings each one hundred and twenty feet long, and both together capable of accommodating eighty additional patients, viz: twenty on each floor, which is the number suitable for one class, placed under the special care and supervision of one attendant. In

the basement story are twenty more rooms. It has also been needful to erect a house for the superintending physician. About thirty thousand dollars have been and will be absorbed by the two new wings and the dwelling house.

It still remains to erect two needful buildings, each forty feet in length to connect the new wings with the old ones, and to contain passage ways, bathing and wash rooms, water closets, &c., at an expense not less than five thousand dollars. Also, to provide beds, bedding, and other furniture for about 100 new rooms, at about 25 dollars cost for each room, making twenty five hundred dollars more ; likewise furnaces for warming the new wings, at an expense of about five hundred dollars, these three items, amount to eight thousand dollars.

Eighty one insane poor persons, have been in the Retreat, for different periods during the past year, who were supported in part by the State. The number now receiving aid from the State is forty-six.

At this particular time the Retreat greatly needs some further aid to complete the enlargement and arrangements rendered necessary by the introduction of insane poor persons, who are kindly assisted by the State. If the Committee are satisfied that the Retreat is a meritorious and purely charitable Institution ; and if they should recommend and the General Assembly grant, an aid of five thousand dollars, towards the expenses above mentioned, the case would stand thus, after completing the establishment to the extent now proposed, viz :

An Institution costing, and well worth seventy-five thousand dollars, will have been completed and furnished, towards which the State Treasury will have paid five thousand dollars at the beginning, and now five thousand dollars more, being but little above one-eighth part of the cost. This Institution will be open to State patients, the same as if it had been built at the expense of the State—and will be sufficient for many years to come, perhaps forever.

Neither, the Retreat nor its officers, desire any individual privileges or private benefit, in this application to the Committee. The Corporation and its officers are trustees merely, in a work of mercy and benevolence, towards the most unfortunate and most helpless class of human beings, in whose welfare the State feels, and has manifested a lively interest.

Which is respectfully submitted.

In behalf of the Retreat for the Insane,
and by order of its Directors.

Signed, ALFRED SMITH, } Committee
GIDEON WELLES, } of the
Directors.

May 27, 1844.

ABSTRACT OF SUPERINTENDING PHYSICIANS REPORT.

SINCE the first appropriation for the Insane Poor by the General Assembly in 1842, the Retreat has received State patients as follows, viz.

Of old cases, (meaning more than one year old,) 61
 Of recent cases, (meaning less than one year old,) 56
 Making the whole number assisted by the State, 117

Of the 61 old cases, assisted by the State, there are

Recovered,	-	-	-	-	2
Much improved,	-	-	-	-	6
Improved,	-	-	-	-	1
Stationary,	-	-	-	-	9
Died,	-	-	-	-	6
Incurable,	-	-	-	-	32
Doubtful,	-	-	-	-	5

Making the whole number of old cases, viz. 61

Of the 56 recent cases assisted by the State, are

Recovered,	-	-	-	-	40
Much Improved,	-	-	-	-	2
Curable, (lately come to the Retreat,)	-	-	-	-	8
Doubtful,	-	-	-	-	1
Died,	-	-	-	-	5

Making the whole number of recent cases, viz. 56
 Total of old and recent cases, 117

The number of State patients now at the Retreat, is 46.





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